

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Road, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600

Minutes of the March 14, 2005 CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:45 p.m. on Monday, March 14, 2005 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members K. Abbott, D. Bibona, L. Caprioglio, D. Stillinger, L. Tavtigian and K. Tubbs.

CTEC's Purpose (NJ40:56A, 1968): to undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

Open Public Meetings Act Statement – The meeting schedule for 2005 was published in the Chatham Courier and Daily Record newspapers and posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings and participate in projects.

Minutes

Mr. Tubbs moved to accept the minutes from the February 14, 2005 meeting and Mr. Caprioglio seconded, with all in favor.

Annual Report

Mr. Tubbs moved to accept the Annual Report that was distributed to the Commission members for review and Mr. Bibona seconded, with all in favor.

Presentations

Mr. Anthony Vitale of Organic Landscape and Design was introduced by Ms. Abbott to present the Commission with information regarding organic lawn/landscape care. Following Mr. Vitale's presentation, members of the Commission and the public asked questions.

Remarks

Congratulations to Kathy Abbot for helping to obtain a \$10,000 Toyota Tapestry grant for environmental education in the schools.

Events

Mrs. Fair will address the Kiwanis Club on March 15, 2005.

A wildflower walk is scheduled for Sunday, March 20 at 1:00 p.m. with botanist Blaine Rothauser.

April 16, 2005 is the date for the Spring Clean Up at Riverside Walk. Commission members were urged to sign up for responsibilities the day of the event.

The NJEF conference is scheduled for April 21, 2005.

Electronics Recycling at Public Works is scheduled for April 30 and May 7, 2005.

Actions

Proposed Tree Ordinance Recommendations

Members of the Commission discussed the memo dated March 15, 2005 addressed to Mayor O'Connor regarding the proposed tree ordinance. Ms. Hagner was unable to attend the meeting and forwarded a memo with her comments on the draft of the memo. After additional discussion, the Commission members decided to use the original memo for formal submission to the Mayor. Mr. Tubbs moved to accept this proposed ordinance and Mr. Bibona seconded, with all in favor. Mrs. Stillinger will send the memo to Mayor O'Connor. Mrs. Stillinger thanked Commission members for work on this major project.

Demolition Letter

Mr. Tubbs stated that the demolition letter had been brought up at the Township Committee meeting. Mr. Tubbs suggested including a copy of the demolition letter with the recommendations for the proposed tree ordinance, with a note to the Mayor. Mrs. Stillinger stated she would elicit Ms. Hagner's comments on the demolition letter before the next meeting.

Open Space Tax

After discussion, it was decided that the Commission would submit a letter to the Township Committee asking that the subject of a change in the Open Space Tax be put out to public vote. Ms. Abbott will send the letter.

Reports

Mr. Tubbs reported on the Township Committee. Mr. Tubbs stated there had been discussion regarding the flooding on the Oak Knoll property. Mr. Tubbs reported that a temporary permit had been issued to pump out the storm water basin for short-term relief. The Township engineer is trying to assist Oak Knoll develop a long-term solution.

Mr. Caprioglio reported on the Planning Board. Mr. Caprioglio stated there had been a hearing regarding The Darcy School at the former KMI property. The storm water management/water quality of the property was discussed.

Mr. Caprioglio reported on his research regarding the outline for the Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat Protection Rules. Mr. Caprioglio is in favor of sending a letter of support to Mayor O'Connor to send on the behalf of Chatham Township. Mrs. Stillinger asked Commission members to consider Mr. Caprioglio's comments and the outline to decide on a course of action at the next meeting.

Mail

Mrs. Stillinger indicated an LOI from Ronald Gunn had been received and is in the file cabinet.

Other Business

Mr. Tubbs reported that Jack Hartford, Bill O'Connor, Erv and Susan Hoag, Abbie Fair, Dot & Frank Stillinger and he walked the proposed Woodland Park property to review the lay of the land.

The meeting of the CTEC Commission was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine T. Hollerith/Secretary